

REMARKS

Claims 60, 67 and 69 are pending. The Examiner has rejected applicants' claims 60, 67 and 69 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Jebens et al. (U.S. PG Pub. 2001/00022204). According to the Examiner, Jebens et al. teach:

"a system/method and a medium (data management and order delivery system) for managing order received from a first shop (browsers and client orders, 12) and order placed with a second shop (suppliers, 16) (see abstract, fig. 1) comprising communication means (telecom, internet/intranet) for communicating data indicating statuses of orders received and placed (client orders), control display (browsers, 766) of a combination of management items which indicate statuses of order process from order determined to acceptance and each number of the orders received of the first group of management items, the first group under a first icon which are for discriminating first group of management items as the order received, and a second combination of a second group of management items which indicate the statuses of order process from order determined to acceptance and each number of the orders placed of the second group of management items, the second group under a second icon which is for discriminating the second group of management items as the orders placed (see fig 10C-10J, paragraphs 0097-0109)..."

The Examiner further argues that Jebens et al. teach display control means that

"prohibits the first combination to be displayed except for the first icon, in case where the orders received is not existence and the second combination to be displayed except for the second icon in case where the orders placed is not existence (see fig 10C-10J, paragraphs 0097-0109) and wherein the display control means displays simultaneously the first icon the first combination as a pair and displays simultaneously the second icon and the second combination as a second pair a case where the orders received and the orders placed are existence (see paragraphs 0103-0105)."

In response to applicants' previous arguments, the Examiner explains that Jebens et al. teach a system wherein after logging in, the user is presented with an options screen (766), on which an "Order" option is shown in bold if it has been selected. Once the "Order" option is selected, a new pull-down menu with various options including "Status

(Read)" is displayed. If "Status(Read)" is selected, a status screen displays the status of any recently placed work orders, as shown by screen 843 in Fig. 10F.

For the reasons set forth below, and as discussed in a telephone interview with the Examiner on October 6, 2004, applicants respectfully submit that Jebens et al. do not teach the invention as claimed by applicants.

Applicants' undersigned attorney would first like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to applicants' undersigned attorney during the interview, in which applicants' undersigned attorney pointed out to the Examiner the specific features of the claims which are not disclosed in the Jebens et al. reference. As discussed, claims 60, 67 and 69 are directed to a system, method, and storage medium storing a program for managing orders, which can be best understood from Figs. 8 and 9 of applicants' specification. More particularly, referring to those figures, in applicants' invention a first combination of a first group of management items which indicate statuses of order process from order determined to acceptance (i.e., "Orders Determined," "Delayed," "Divided Orders," "Orders Modified," "Inspection in Progress," "Acceptance") and each number of the orders received corresponding to each of the statuses of the first group of management items (803-809), and a second combination of a second group of management items which indicate statuses of order process from order determined to acceptance and each number of the orders placed corresponding to each of the statuses of the second group of management items (904-909), are displayed simultaneously in the case where the orders received and the orders placed are in existence. Moreover, according to applicants' invention, the first group of management items are displayed under a first icon (801) which identifies the first group of management items as the orders received, and the second group of management items are displayed under a second icon

(811 in Fig. 8; see Fig. 9) which identifies the second group of management items as the orders placed.

As noted by applicants' undersigned attorney, the cited Jebens et al. application, including the portions relied on by the Examiner, fails to teach or suggest this combination of features. Specifically, while paragraphs [0097] through [0109] and Figs. 10C through 10J of Jebens et al. do teach displaying the status of recently placed work orders via options screen 766, as shown in Fig. 10F and described in paragraph [0104], nothing in Jebens et al. teaches or suggests displaying the status of orders received, including a first group of management items, much less displaying such status of orders received simultaneously with the status of orders placed in cases where both orders placed and orders received are in existence, as required by applicants' claims. Moreover, nothing in the Abstract of the Jebens et al. application discusses anything as to how to display orders, let alone orders placed and orders received.

In addition, according to the claimed invention, a first pair of a first icon and first group of management items and a second pair of a second icon and second group of management items are displayed together when orders received and orders placed are in existence, without requiring the user's selection in order to display detailed information corresponding to the management items. This configuration of applicants' invention makes the presence or absence of orders received and orders placed easy to ascertain.

In contrast, in the system taught by Jebens et al., a selection operation of selecting the "status" icon (818) is required in order to display a status screen (843), in a case where recently placed work orders exist (paragraph [0104]). The "Status" icon (818) and the Work Order Status screen (843) are not displayed simultaneously as a pair, as required by applicants' claims.

Furthermore, according to applicants' invention, only the first icon (901) is displayed in a case where no orders have been received, as shown in applicants' Fig. 9, and only the second icon (811) is displayed in a case where no orders have been placed, as shown in Fig. 8. As required by claims 60, 67 and 69, display control prohibits the displaying of the first combination except for the first icon in a case where no orders have been received, and prohibits the displaying of the second combination except for the second icon when no orders have been placed.

Applicants' invention is thus directed to displaying the detailed status of orders that have been placed and received, displaying only the icon corresponding to orders placed and detailed status of orders received when orders have been received only, and displaying detailed status of orders placed and only the icon corresponding to orders received when orders have been placed only. In the case that all processing of management items are completed, the first and second combinations are not displayed, and only the corresponding first and second icons are displayed.

In Jebens et al., however, the work order status screen (843) is displayed regardless of whether a placed work order to be processed is in existence. In other words, displaying of detailed information of the status of orders placed is not prohibited even in the case where the processing of placed orders is completed.

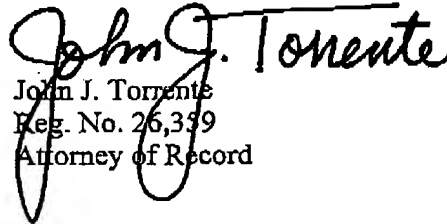
In view of the above, it is submitted that applicants' claims patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, the Examiner's reconsideration of the claims based on applicants' articulation of the differences between the cited art and applicants' invention is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a further interview would expedite

consideration of this Response or of the application, a request is made that the Examiner telephone applicants' undersigned attorney at (212) 790-9273.

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Respectfully submitted,

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